

**Glenda Wiles**

**From:** Persh Parker [pmparkmt@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:41 AM  
**To:** Glenda Wiles  
**Subject:** Airport Expansion

Ravalli County Commissioners:

Since moving recently into the Arbors neighborhood of Hamilton, we have become aware of the controversy surrounding the proposed expansion of the nearby Ravalli County Airport. We would like to express our concerns and state our opinion regarding the best course of action.

Ravalli County is a true gem. It's quality of life, open space, rural and small town character, and beautiful scenery are becoming ever more rare. Ravalli County still has an opportunity to set a national example of balancing growth with preservation. What makes this place so attractive does not need to be lost if decisions affecting the quality of the future—for us, our children and our grandchildren—are made with restraint and an appreciation of what we have.

We are in full agreement that safety standards for aircraft that *currently* use the airport need to be met. However, we are opposed to expanding the length of the runway to accommodate planes larger, louder, and faster than what the airport now handles. We feel that such an expansion would be of very little benefit to the residents of Ravalli County. It would increase airport maintenance costs borne by the taxpayers, and decrease the quality of life for valley residents by raising noise levels and air pollution through increased traffic levels of heavier aircraft.

We respectfully request that you reject any proposal to lengthen the runway at Ravalli County Airport.

Sincerely yours,

Muriel and Pershing Parker

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